Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently amended)   A method ~~of calculating a distance value between terms in a document~~ comprising:

~~locating~~ identifying an implicitly defined semantic ~~structures~~ structure associated with terms in [[the]] a document; [[and]]

determining whether a first relationship or a second relationship exists between a first term and a second term within the implicitly defined semantic structure;

~~calculating the~~ determining a first distance ~~values in the document based on the implicitly defined semantic structures~~ value between the first and second terms when the first relationship exists between the first and second terms;

determining a second distance value between the first and second terms when the second relationship exists between the first and second terms, wherein the first and second distance values differ; and

outputting the first distance value or the second distance value to rank the document for relevancy to a search query that includes at least the first term.

2.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the document is a HTML (Hyper-Text Markup Language) document.

3.   (Currently amended)   The method of claim 2, wherein the implicitly defined semantic ~~structures include lists~~ structure includes a list created with HTML tags.

4.   (Original)   The method of claim 3, wherein the HTML tags include paragraph tags, new line tags, bold tags, or table tags.

5.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

locating explicitly defined semantic structures.

6.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the semantic structures include lists.

7.   (Currently amended)   The method of claim 1, wherein the <u>first and second</u> distance values are calculated as a word count between pairs of terms in the document augmented by rules related to the implicitly defined semantic ~~structures~~ <u>structure</u>.

8.   (Currently amended)   The method of claim 1, wherein ~~locating~~ <u>identifying</u> the implicitly defined semantic ~~structures~~ <u>structure</u> includes:

~~locating~~ <u>identifying</u> repeating occurrences of a set of two or more text formatting commands.

9.   (Currently amended)   The method of claim 1, wherein the implicitly defined semantic ~~structures include titles~~ <u>structure includes a title</u> or <u>a</u> ~~headings~~ <u>heading</u>.

10.   (Currently amended)   A device comprising:

     means for ~~locating~~ identifying an implicitly defined semantic ~~structures~~ structure associated with terms in a document; [[and]]

     means for determining whether a first relationship or a second relationship exists between a pair of the terms within the implicitly defined semantic structure;

     means for ~~calculating~~ determining a first distance value between the pair of terms ~~in the document based on the implicitly defined semantic structures~~ when the first relationship exists between the pair of terms;

     means for determining a second distance value between the pair of terms when the second relationship exists between the pair of terms, where the first and second distance values differ;

     means for generating a ranking score for the document based on the first distance value or the second distance value; and

     means for outputting the ranking score.

11.   (Canceled)

12.   (Currently amended)   A method ~~for ranking documents relative to a search query, the method~~ comprising:

     identifying an implicitly defined semantic structure associated with terms in a plurality of documents;

     determining ~~semantically based~~ a first or second distance ~~values~~ value between

terms within the implicitly defined semantic structure that occur in [[the]] a search query

and that are present in the documents, where the first distance value is based on a first

relationship that exists between the terms and the second distance value is based on a

second relationship that exists between the terms, where the first and second distance

values differ; [[and]]

ranking the documents for relevancy to [[the]] a search query based on one of the

determined distance values; and

outputting the rankings of the documents in response to the search query.

13.   (Currently amended)   The method of claim 12, wherein determining the

semantically based first and second distance values includes:

determining whether one or more of the terms are present within a list.

14.   (Original)   The method of claim 13, wherein the list is implicitly defined.

15.   (Original)   The method of claim 13, wherein determining the semantically based

first and second distance values further includes:

assigning a distance value indicative of closeness when two terms are present in a

same item of the list.

16.   (Canceled)

17.   (Currently amended)   The method of claim [[16]] 12, wherein the implicitly

defined semantic ~~structures are located~~ structure is identified prior to the ranking.

18.   (Original)   The method of claim 12, wherein the documents are HTML (Hyper-

Text Markup Language) documents.

19.   (Currently amended)   The method of claim 18, wherein the implicitly defined

semantic ~~structures include~~ structure includes lists created with HTML tags.

20.   (Original)   The method of claim 19, wherein the HTML tags include paragraph

tags, new line tags, bold tags, or table tags.

21.   (Currently amended)   The method of claim 12, wherein determining the

~~semantically based~~ first and second distance values includes:

        determining whether one or more of the terms are present within a title or

heading.

22.   (Currently amended)   A device comprising:

        a memory; and

        a processor coupled to the memory to:

                identify a semantic structure associated with terms occurring in a of

document;

determine whether a first relationship or a second relationship exists

between the terms in the identified semantic structure;

determine semantically based first or second distance values between

those of the terms that occur in a search query when the first or second relationship

exists, respectively, wherein the first and second distance values differ ~~and that are~~

~~present in documents~~; [[and]]

rank the documents for relevancy to the search query based on one of the

determined first or second distance values; and

provide at least some of the ranks in response to the search query.

23.   (Original)   The device of claim 22, wherein the processor further:

locates implicitly defined semantic structures in the documents; and

uses the implicitly defined semantic structures in determining the semantically

based distance values.

24.   (Currently amended)   The device of claim 22, wherein the processor further:

receives [[a]] the search query that contains the terms.

25.   (Currently amended)   A method comprising:

receiving a search query;

~~locating~~ identifying an implicitly defined semantic ~~structures~~ structure associated

with terms in documents;

determining whether a first relationship or a second relationship exists between a first term and a second term within the implicitly defined semantic structure;

~~calculating~~ determining first and second distance values for the first and second terms ~~the documents based on the implicitly defined semantic structures and based on terms in the search query~~ based on the first relationship or the second relationship;

ranking the documents for relevancy to the search query based on the first distance ~~values~~ value or the second distance value; and

presenting the documents in an order influenced by the ranking.

26.   (Original)   The method of claim 25, wherein the documents are HTML (Hyper-Text Markup Language) documents.

27.   (Original)   The method of claim 26, wherein the implicitly defined semantic structures include lists created with HTML tags.

28.   (Original)   The method of claim 25, further comprising:

locating explicitly defined semantic structures.